

# Samuel Adams

1722–1803



**WHY HE MADE HISTORY** Samuel Adams was a political leader during the American Revolution. He helped organize the colonists to fight for America's independence. Adams was also a signer of the Declaration of Independence.



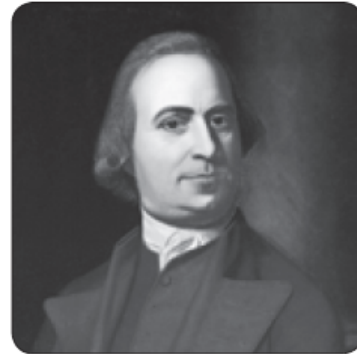
*As you read the biography below, think about how Samuel Adams's determination helped unite the colonists against Britain.*

Thomas Jefferson called Samuel Adams “truly the *Man of the revolution*.” Adams led the call for opposition to Great Britain in the years leading up to the American Revolution.

Samuel Adams had always been fascinated with politics. After holding a variety of jobs, including that of a tax collector, Adams became a political leader in Massachusetts. He held many offices in the Massachusetts legislature, and was a bold opponent of Great Britain's Sugar Act in 1764.

Adams is recognized as one of the first supporters of independence from Great Britain. He desired to live in a country free from the rule of the British government. He believed that the colonists had the right to rule themselves. Samuel Adams spoke forcefully against the oppressive laws of the British Parliament, including the Stamp Act and the Townshend Acts.

Adams believed many other colonists felt the same way he did. He also realized that in order to be heard, the colonists needed to unite in protest against Great Britain. In 1772 he helped create the Committees of Correspondence. These committees allowed ideas to be shared and spread across



Independence National Historical Park

## VOCABULARY

**defiance** the act of opposing or resisting

**boycott** to refuse to have dealings with an organization out of protest

the thirteen colonies. Colonists began to realize that they could unite through these ideas. They started to see Adams's vision of a united force against the British.

A leading figure behind the revolutionary movement, Adams helped to organize the Sons of Liberty in 1765. The Sons of Liberty took part in open **defiance** of British laws. Adams also encouraged a **boycott** of British goods. His daring spirit was demonstrated in several historic events, among them his demand that British soldiers be removed from Boston following the Boston Massacre and his organization of the Boston Tea Party. Samuel Adams's revolutionary spirit fueled the movement against Great Britain.

Samuel Adams went on to serve in the Continental Congress from 1774 to 1781, sign the Declaration of Independence, and serve as governor of Massachusetts. Above all, his determination led the colonies to freedom.

### WHAT DID YOU LEARN?

- 1. Analyzing** In what ways did Samuel Adams demonstrate patriotism?

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- 2. Evaluating** How does the technology of today help people share ideas? In what ways is this like the Committees of Correspondence?

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### ACTIVITY

- 3.** Imagine that you are Samuel Adams. What would you say to the colonists to have them join you in the fight for independence? Write a persuasive letter to the colonists.